

MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING COMMISSION FOR MH/DD/SAS

**Holiday Inn-North
2805 Highwoods Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27604**

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Attending:

Advisory Committee Members: Chair Don Stedman, Lou Adkins, Laura Coker, Dorothy Crawford, Mary Kelly, Emily Moore, Carl Shantzis, Marvin Swartz

Excused: Fredrica Stell, Martha Macon

Division Staff: Christina Carter, Darlene Creech, James Harris, Vanessa Holman, Kay Johnson, Chris Phillips, Flo Stein

Others: John Crawford, Chris Estes, David Mills

Handouts:

Mailed:

- January 20, 2005 Draft Advisory Committee minutes

Additional Handouts:

- Consumer and Family Advisory Committee packet distributed by Chris Phillips
- Draft Article: "Welcome home! The Problem of Housing for Disabled Persons"
- "Campaign for Housing Carolina" information distributed by Chris Estes
- H.R. 1350 – Amendments to the IDEA (Power Point presentation – hard copy)
- DPI Curriculum and School Reform Services Organization Chart
- DMH/DD/SAS Expansion Funding Requests information
- Draft Budget Information Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee, April 13, 2005

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Chair Donald Stedman called the meeting to order on time.

Dr. Stedman made agenda changes stating that the IDEA Revisions agenda item would be moved to 1:00 p.m. Agenda items "Early Childhood Intervention Initiative" and "School-Based Mental Health Services" would not be addressed in the meeting.

All members, staff and visitors made introductions.

The minutes of the January 20, 2005 Advisory Committee meeting were approved. Dr. Stedman expressed appreciation to Ellen Holliman for chairing that meeting.

C-FAC Development

Chris Phillips, Chief of DMH/DD/SAS Advocacy and Customer Services, distributed a packet of information regarding Consumer and Family Advisory Committees (C-FACs).

He reviewed the history of C-FAC development, stating that the blueprint for mental health reform recognized the value of input from consumers and families at all levels of service planning and delivery. He discussed the three teams in the DMH/DD/SAS Advocacy and Customer Services section: Facility Advocates, Consumer Empowerment and Customer Service and Community Rights.

The Consumer Empowerment Team supports the development and operations of the local and state CFACs. As Chief, he has direct access to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services when necessary.

The guidelines included in the DMH/DD/SAS 2003 State Plan for CFACs contained principles around governance, accountability, advocacy, influence and knowledge. Fully integrating the CFACs into the local and state arena around these principles has been difficult at times because of the significant changes this new partnership reflects in planning and delivering mh/dd/sa services.

Mr. Phillips explained that CFACs address system issues while Human Rights Committees focus on specific cases. There are currently 33 local CFACs in the state as well as a State CFAC. Thirty-two of the 33 have by-laws and 23 have relational agreements with the Local Management Entities. The average number of members on the local CFACs is 13.

It is difficult to recruit and retain consumer and family members representing substance abuse consumers and adolescent/youth consumers. The members suggested that faith based groups and school departments which require students to perform community service might be good sources for youthful consumers.

Mr. Phillips noted that State Plan 2004 included the goal to “provide technical assistance for local programs to increase consumer and family participation.” The Consumer Empowerment Team is assisting in ensuring that training for local CFACs members occurs so that the CFACs can continue to provide meaningful input.

Dr. Stedman stated that the Advocacy and Customer Service section had done a great job of a complex issue in a short amount of time. He said he would draft a resolution to support the C-FAC work for the May 18, 2005 Commission meeting.

Housing Initiatives

Dr. Stedman distributed a draft article entitled “Welcome home! The Problem of Housing for Disabled Persons.” The article will appear in an upcoming issue of the North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry’s publication, “North Carolina”. The article summarizes the findings of the Commission for MH/DD/SAS Task Force on Housing. A copy of the final draft of the article will be distributed to the Commission on May 18, 2005.

Dr. Stedman introduced Kay Johnson as the new Housing Specialist in the Division and lauded her work already started to advance housing issues. Beginning her presentation, she stated that for mental health reform to be successful, the following things were essential: strong local service capacity, availability of personnel, and access to housing in the community. To address the latter issue, the Commission for MH/DD/SAS created a Housing Task Force, which made several recommendations in an August 18, 2004 report, entitled “Welcome Home!” Ms. Johnson noted that one of her primary responsibilities is to pull people together all across the state to increase the awareness about housing issues for individuals with disabilities. She stated that 19 housing specialists now exist at the local level. She is working closely with these specialists, sharing information and encouraging partnering opportunities. There are limited resources on which to draw, and meeting to share ideas is a good way to maximize resources.

Effective July 1, 2005, housing outcome measures will be piloted in N.C. TOPPS (Treatment Outcomes Performance Program System). This measurement tool will provide valuable information about where consumers are living and if they are satisfied with their housing arrangements.

Ms. Johnson noted that “choice” is the best practice standard for individuals regarding housing. Studies in Oregon, Michigan and California show that the best outcomes are those that provide independent housing opportunities with full community integration. Unfortunately the funding sources aren’t following that standard. Funds are more available for congregate living settings like group homes.

Ms. Johnson introduced Chris Estes, Executive Director of the N.C. Housing Coalition. Mr. Estes is championing the “Campaign for Housing Carolina.” Housing Carolina’s objective is to build strong and widespread public support for a \$50 million annual appropriation to the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund. This trust fund, administered by the N.C. Housing Finance Agency, provides “bricks and mortar” financing for affordable housing throughout North Carolina. He defined “affordable housing” as housing that costs the household no more than 30% of its income. For individuals on SSI, 30% income would be \$175 per month. There are very few housing options available at this cost.

Mr. Estes stated that over 2 million North Carolinians have problems with finding affordable housing. Housing cost is the primary issue for 93% of these citizens. Adding \$50 million to the N.C. Housing Trust Fund would:

- House over 6,000 households each year
- Generate over 3,000 jobs each year
- Increase state and local tax revenues by over \$30 million each year
- Leverage \$200 million of housing development and preservation
- Increase the NC Housing Trust Fund’s revolving loan fund through the recycling of future loan repayments

Mr. Estes said that people can support the Housing Carolina initiative by writing a letter to their local newspaper, contacting their state legislators, endorsing the campaign and arranging to have presentations made to organizations in which they are involved. Additional information is available at www.housingcarolina.org.

Committee members agreed that a resolution should be prepared in support of Housing Carolina. Dr. Stedman will work with Kay Johnson on the resolution and present it at the May 18, 2005 MH/DD/SAS Commission meeting and will meet further with Kay and Chris to see how some special issues might be pursued.

IDEA Revisions

Dr. Stedman introduced Dr. David Mills, a senior member of administration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Dr. Mills has more than 35 years with DPI and works in the Division of Exceptional Children. He presented information on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)-H.R. 1350. Most of the revisions to IDEIA become effective July 1, 2005. Regulations around the act have not yet been issued.

Dr. Mills explained that revisions in the IDEIA are primarily in the areas of:

- Highly Qualified Special Education Teachers
- Personnel Qualifications
- Individualized Education Programs
- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Funding
- Dispute Resolution
- Paperwork Reduction
- Discipline of Students with Disabilities
- Federal and State Monitoring
- Children Enrolled in Nonpublic Schools

There are significant changes being required but due to the lack of forthcoming regulations, it's not likely that states will be compliant by July 1, 2005.

Dr. Stedman congratulated Dr. Mills for his work and complimented his interest in working closely with the Commission and the Division as DPI serves children also served by DHHS.

DMH/DD/SAS Budget

Phillip Hoffman, Chief of DMH/DD/SAS Resource and Regulatory Management, distributed two documents: a "Summary List of Expansion Requests for SFYs '06 and '07" and "Budget Information Being Considered by the Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee, 4/13/05." He reviewed the two documents and stated that it was early in the budget process to draw many conclusions. It was noted that the outcome of the lottery bill will greatly impact the budget.

Carl Shantzis recommended that the committee draft a resolution for the Commission to consider that would create a set aside from lottery revenues for the purpose of providing treatment for those with an addiction to gambling. Participants agreed with this.

Dr. Stedman thanked Mr. Hoffman for his work and asked that he attend the May 18, 2005 Commission meeting if possible. The next scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee is July 14, 2005 in Raleigh.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with Dr. Stedman thanking all present.